

1 Nada Smith

2 did you know?

3 A. I don't know.

4 MR. SIMON: Just a question:

5 These areas were covered when you were
6 not personally present. If you want to
7 go over them again, be my guest.

8 MR. KESHAVARZ: Okay.

9 Q. There's another dealership --

10 Planet Auto, I think?

11 A. Planet Motors.

12 Q. Planet Motors. They're not my
13 client. I don't have a case against them. But
14 I'm just wondering: Did Planet Motors have
15 their accounts at Chase and TD Bank?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you know where they have their
18 accounts?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were you involved in Planet Motors
21 at all?

22 A. No, not at all.

23 Q. Was your sister involved with
24 Planet Motors?

25 A. She worked there for a little bit

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2 and left.

3 Q. Do any other family members work
4 at Planet?

5 A. Overall?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I had my deceased brother that
8 worked there for a little bit.

11 A. NO.

12 Q. The two floor planners, Palisades
13 and Next Gear; do you know which bank the money
14 was transferred to and from on their end, or do
15 you not know?

16 A. I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

17 Q. Sure. So there were automatic
18 payments going between New York Motor Group
19 account and the floor planners?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you know in what banks the
22 monies were being deposited on behalf of the
23 floor planners?

24 A. One was using Chase and the other
25 started using TD. Palisades started using TD.

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2 if I'm not mistaken.

3 Q. Did Palisades use another bank,
4 other than TD, for a period of time when they
5 were doing business with New York Motor Group,
6 if you know?

7 A. They were using Chase. And then
8 they started using TD once we opened TD
9 accounts.

10 Q. There were some discussions before
11 about arrests, and you said there were personal
12 issues. I don't want to go into personal
13 issues. If there's DWIs or family issues, I
14 don't care to go into that. But I'm just
15 wondering aside from that type of thing, were
16 there arrests for allegations of forgery or
17 theft or anything like that?

18 A. NO.

19 Q. Other than personal issues like
20 DWIs or family issues, for what other reasons
21 were you arrested?

22 A. I wasn't.

23 MR. SIMON: I object to the form
24 of the question.

25 0. So the only issues are personal

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2 issues like that?

3 A. It's just -- no. There's never.

4 Q. No arrests?

5 A. Like related like that, no.

6 Q. No arrests other than -- if any --

7 a personal matter like a DWI or a domestic

8 issue; right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. That's all I need to know. I
11 don't need to go into the personal issues, it's
12 not relevant.

13 There was a document with the name
14 "Planet Auto" before that was handwritten in
15 your handwriting; remember?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. How often did you write in the
18 name "Planet Auto" on a document? "Planet
19 Motors," excuse me.

20 A. I don't remember how many times.

21 Q. Was it fairly regular?

22 A. It would be here and there. It
23 wasn't a usual thing.

24 Q. Maybe once a week?

25 A. I don't remember, but it was few

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2 times.

3 Q. For the entire time that you were
4 there?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The other thing about deposits at
7 banks; what bank did you have during the time
8 that you worked at New York Motor Group?

9 A. I had an account with Chase.

10 Q. And that was under your name?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did your father give cash that you
13 put into the Chase account?

14 A. At times when I needed, if -- when
15 I asked him.

16 Q. And roughly a hundred dollars
17 here, two hundred dollars there, that type of
18 thing?

19 A. Yes. It wasn't anything crazy.

20 Q. Nothing over a thousand dollars?

21 A. Oh, no, no -- I wish.

22 Q. Did he deposit any checks from him
23 or the dealerships on a regular basis?

24 A. From the dealership to me?

25 Q. Yes.

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2 A. No, never.

3 Q. Did he ever write checks that you
4 had deposited into your own account?

5 A. His personal check. I think it
6 was once that that happened.

7 Q. Roughly over \$10,000?

8 A. No, no. Probably two hundred
9 dollars, I believe.

10 Q. Did he ever pay any major bills
11 that you might have, like cars?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Did he purchase a car for you?

14 A. No. I used his car or my mother's
15 car.

16 Q. Anything else? Anything major
17 that he paid, like giving you a car to use or
18 anything significant?

19 A. No. I didn't have much. I lived
20 at home, so it was just the car. The phone I
21 paid for -- well, he paid for, because I asked
22 him for money for it.

23 Q. You told me before about a
24 protest. I think you said that you believed
25 they might have been Bengali?

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2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Does that sound right to you?

4 A. I believe so.

5 Q. Do you know if there was a protest
6 that Mr. Tuhin was at; do you remember?

7 A. I'm sorry, can you repeat that?

8 Q. Do you know if Mr. Tuhin was at
9 that protest?

10 A. I think he was at one. They came
11 twice. I think he was at one of them -- I
12 think, yeah. And then another, I don't
13 remember the other client, honestly. Maybe if
14 the name comes up, maybe I'll remember it, but
15 right off the top of my head I don't remember
16 it.

17 Q. So let's talk about the first
18 protest. What happened there?

19 A. They all came and they were
20 standing outside and they started protesting,
21 "New York Motor Group, fraud, fraud, fraud."
22 They kept saying, "New York Motor Group,
23 fraud," over and over again. I didn't really
24 understand what was going on. I went outside
25 to try to talk to them. They were very rude to

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2 me. They told me to go away, and that they
3 were allowed to do this and everything. I went
4 back in. I asked Julio what should I do. He
5 told me this, and what is my next move. He
6 said, "Call the police, because unless they
7 have a permit they're not allowed to protest."
8 I said "Okay."

9 I called the police. They came.

10 And they were apparently allowed to do it,
11 because it was under a certain number or
12 something like that, and he said, "Just let
13 them go on and do what they have to do, and
14 they'll leave by the end of the day or whenever
15 they leave." So I just let them be.

16 Q. Did anything else happen at that
17 first protest?

18 A. I don't remember if it was the
19 first or second, honestly.

20 Q. All right. We'll talk about the
21 second one in a minute, if you're not sure
22 which protest we're discussing now. But from
23 what you do remember of the first protest, was
24 your father at the first protest?

25 A. Well, I don't know if it was the

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2 first or second. But I know that one of them,
3 he stopped by, because he had just purchased a
4 vehicle or something and he came to drop it
5 off, saw what was going on, walked over to them
6 to try to calm them down and try to talk to
7 them. I know that he did calm them down,
8 because the protesters -- one of them -- said,
9 "All right, let's walk over to 7-Eleven and
10 talk." So they walked over there and they
11 talked and they seemed to come to an
12 understanding. I believe that was the second
13 one that that happened.

14 Q. By "they," you mean your father?

15 A. And the protester.

16 Q. Was there more than one protester
17 that went to the 7-Eleven with your father, if
18 you know?

19 A. I don't know. I wasn't present.
20 He just told me that's what happened.

21 Q. Do you know if Mr. Tuhin was one
22 of the people that was speaking with your
23 father?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Did you hear any of that

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2 conversation yourself?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did your father tell you about
5 that conversation?

6 A. No. He just said that they came
7 to an understanding, and he shouldn't bother us
8 anymore.

9 Q. But he didn't explain further?

10 A. No.

11 Q. There's an allegation somewhere in
12 one of the complaints about a hose being used
13 on the protesters. Is there a hose at New York
14 Motor Group?

15 A. Yes. I have Juan, he cleans the
16 cars outside. But I know for a fact that none
17 of them would spray down anyone with the hose.

18 Q. His name is Juan?

19 A. Juan.

20 Q. Do you know his last name?

21 A. No. He never told me.

22 Q. The protesters were on the public
23 sidewalk?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Would the hose be something that

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2 could be used to spray at a distance onto the
3 public sidewalk?

4 A. No. It only sprayed onto the
5 vehicles on the dealership, never outside of
6 the premises of the dealership.

7 Q. So it doesn't have the physical
8 capacity to spray onto the sidewalk? Or do you
9 know?

10 A. I don't think so.

13 A. He used one extension to get to
14 the vehicles in the front. But it didn't reach
15 all the way to the front, to get to the
16 sidewalk.

17 Q. So as far as you were aware, was
18 there any water thrown on the protesters at
19 all?

20 A. NO.

21 Q. Did you see the protesters the
22 whole time they were there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. On both occasions?

25 A. Yes.

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2 Q. You saw them the whole time they
3 were there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. About how long were they there the
6 first time?

7 A. A few hours.

8 Q. And the second time?

9 A. Probably an hour or two. And then
10 my father came and settled everything.

11 Q. There's also another allegation in
12 one of the complaints about a car going up on
13 the sidewalk towards the protesters, physically
14 towards the protesters. Did you see anything
15 like that?

16 A. Absolutely not.

17 Q. Did anyone tell you about anything
18 like that?

19 A. No. Like I said, my dad came --
20 pulled into the dealership and walked over to
21 them to talk to them.

22 Q. What vehicle, if you remember, was
23 your father driving when he pulled up to the
24 dealership?

25 A. I don't recall.

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2 MR. SIMON: Note my objection to
3 the form of the question. I think she
4 said "pulled into" the dealership. You
5 said "up to" the dealership.

6 Q. In any case, if you don't
7 understand one of my questions, will you please
8 ask me to rephrase?

9 A. Okay.

10 MR. SIMON: I just object to the
11 form of the question.

12 MR. KESHAVARZ: If she doesn't
13 understand the question --

14 MR. SIMON: I just objected to the
15 form of the question. You can answer.

16 Q. Was he pulling in or up?

17 A. He was pulling into the
18 dealership.

19 Q. How close to the sidewalk was he,
20 if you know?

21 A. Where the protesters were?

22 Q. Where was the car?

23 A. Oh, it was completely on the other
24 side. They were in the front. My dad pulled
25 in from the side.

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2 Q. Do you remember what type of
3 vehicle your father was driving at the time of
4 the protests?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Does he change the vehicles he
7 drives?

8 A. Yes, all the time.

9 Q. Because he drives vehicles that
10 are on his lot; is that why?

11 A. Yes. He has a dealer plate.

12 Q. So what does that mean?

13 A. A dealer plate is used to put on
14 vehicles, to get them from point A to point B.

15 Q. So does that mean when there are
16 different inventory vehicles on the lot, he
17 would just drive them around for his own use?

18 A. Well, he drove different vehicles
19 also to check the vehicles, to make sure that
20 there's nothing wrong with them. He drives
21 them home, makes sure that they drive okay,
22 there's nothing wrong with the vehicle, brings
23 it back, and changes his vehicles every day.

24 Q. So the vehicles he would use were
25 the vehicles on the lot that were for sale?

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2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you open the mail while you
4 worked at New York Motor Group?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know who did?

7 A. I had an accountant that opened up
8 the mail. There was like -- there was a few
9 since I've been there. I don't remember all
10 their names.

11 Q. Do you know if there were
12 complaints from the Department of Consumer
13 Affairs that came into the dealership?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you know how many?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. More than ten?

18 A. I don't know.

19 Q. More than twenty?

20 A. No, I don't think so.

21 Q. You think somewhere between ten
22 and twenty?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you see the physical
25 complaints as they came in?

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2 A. Not all of them. The ones that I
3 did see, I gave to Julio to handle, because he
4 knew the issues.

5 Q. Generally was there a common
6 complaint that consumers had or that DCA made;
7 that consumers were promised that the interest
8 rate on a car loan would go down after a number
9 of months? Was that a common type of
10 complaint?

11 A. The last few months, yes, I did
12 see a lot of those complaints.

13 Q. Before then?

14 A. Not really. It happened once,
15 maybe, or something. But the last few months I
16 was there, that was a very common -- that was
17 honestly I think the only complaint; that their
18 payment and interest rate was supposed to drop.
19 And the first time I had asked Julio if that
20 was really true, he did show me an example and
21 he said, "Yes, it is possible." So I believed
22 him.

23 Q. Was another common complaint that
24 people made downpayments that were not
25 reflected on the retail installment sales

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2 contract?

3 A. That didn't show on the retail,
4 no -- no, because all the downpayments were
5 written on the bill of sale and everything that
6 the client received.

7 Q. You said that you would write the
8 checks for refunds if the consumers returned
9 vehicles; is that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How often did you do that?

12 A. I think it was once or twice. But
13 mostly the refund is if they leave a small
14 deposit to hold the vehicle and they come back
15 and change their mind; that they don't want the
16 vehicle. Those are the refunds that I would
17 write.

18 Q. Let's talk about people who try to
19 return the car prior to the deal being funded.

20 A. Yes, that happened twice.

21 Q. What does that mean?

22 A. That means the customer bought the
23 vehicle and before the vehicle was funded
24 through the bank, like, before the loan was
25 permanently theirs, because we have I think a

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2 two-day or something until the vehicle
3 completely goes through the loan and
4 everything -- so I know this one client. The
5 next day, he didn't want the vehicle, brought
6 it back and said, "No, my wife didn't want it"
7 and this and that. And so we took back the
8 vehicle and gave him his refund and everything.

9 Q. What do you mean, there's a
10 two-day thing before the loan goes through?

11 A. Well, it takes two days for the
12 loan -- for the bank to fund the deal.

13 Q. Between what two points? Between
14 when you give them all the signed paperwork?

15 A. We give them all the paperwork,
16 this is what I know -- I've never done it --
17 but to my acknowledgment, the bank requires
18 paperwork from the dealership. The dealership
19 sends it to the bank. The bank reviews it and
20 funds the deal. Yes, I'm pretty sure that's
21 how it works.

22 Q. And there's a two-day gap, or so?

23 A. Don't quote me on that. I don't
24 know how long it takes, but I know there is a
25 process before the deal actually gets funded.

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2 Q. From New York Motor Group's point
3 of view, if you know, the consumer can try to
4 return the vehicle at any point prior to the
5 deal being funded, or do you know?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Did Mr. Tuhin try to go back to
8 the dealership to return the vehicle?

9 A. Yes. But he had the vehicle for
10 over a month.

11 Q. Do you know if he tried to return
12 the vehicle before that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. How many times do you remember
15 seeing Mr. Tuhin?

16 MR. SIMON: Objection to the form
17 of the question. Do you mean before the
18 transaction?

19 Q. Do you understand my question?

20 A. You're saying -- are you asking if
21 I've seen him before he returned the vehicle or
22 after he returned the vehicle?

23 Q. I'm glad you asked me to clarify.
24 Please always do that.

25 A. Okay.

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2 the vehicle. We told him, "Sir, we can't do
3 anything for you, because you've already made
4 payments on the vehicle." And he was just
5 really upset, and he came back a second time
6 asking for the same thing and I don't remember
7 exactly what happened, but I know that, you
8 know, we couldn't do anything for him and he
9 was really upset. And that's when he came back
10 with the protests.

11 Q. When you say he was really upset,
12 what do you mean?

13 A. I know at one point he was crying.

14 Q. Was he crying the first time or
15 the second time, or do you remember?

16 A. I don't remember, honestly. But I
17 know at one point he was crying.

18 Q. What did he tell you that made you
19 think that he was crying? I mean, what else
20 did he say specifically?

21 A. : He was just saying that he
22 couldn't afford it -- that he couldn't afford
23 the vehicle, he couldn't afford the payments,
24 he just couldn't afford it and he was getting
25 really upset about it, that he couldn't afford